

a battery housing having top and bottom portions, at least one cell within the battery housing and battery contacts adjacent the housing and situated to engage the battery terminals of the drive assembly;

New member no summary one of the drive assembly and the battery having a pair of tracks defining flanges; and the other of the drive assembly and the battery having grooves configured to receive the flanges of the tracks;

wherein the battery may be repeatably and releasably attached to the drive assembly by sliding the battery into and out of engagement with the drive assembly.

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14. A rechargeable battery according to claim 13, wherein the drive assembly further includes a blocking member movable between a latched and release position.

15. A rechargeable battery according to claim 14, wherein said battery further comprises:
a) a slot for receiving the blocking member when the blocking member is in the latched position.

16. A rechargeable battery according to claim 15, wherein the slot is sized and shaped to engage the blocking member to lock the battery to the battery receiving portion when the blocking member is in the latched position.

17. A rechargeable battery according to claim 14, wherein said battery further comprises means for automatically moving the blocking member from the latched toward the release position as the battery is mounted to the battery receiving portion.

18. A rechargeable battery according to claim 17, wherein the means for automatically moving the blocking member comprises a ramped surface on the top portion of the battery housing.

19. A rechargeable battery according to claim 13, wherein each of the battery terminals comprise a substantially flat plate member having opposite side surfaces, and

each of said battery contacts comprise a pair of flexible, resilient arcuate members which are adapted to engage opposite side surfaces of a battery terminal.

20. A rechargeable battery according to claim 13, wherein said battery contacts each include a first end fixedly attached to said top portion of said battery housing and a second end adapted to abut a support shoulder of the top portion of the battery housing.

21. A rechargeable battery adapted to be repeatably and releaseably attached to a drive assembly, the drive assembly having elongate drive and handle portions, a battery receiving portion having a pair of tracks defining flanges, and battery terminals;

said battery comprising:

a battery housing having top and bottom portions, at least one cell within the battery housing and battery contacts adjacent the top portion of the housing and situated to engage the battery terminals of the drive assembly, and

releasable attachment means for releasably attaching the battery to the battery receiving portion in a direction other than the direction of elongation of the handle portion.

22. A rechargeable battery according to claim 21, wherein the drive assembly further includes a blocking member movable between a latched and release position.

23. A rechargeable battery according to claim 22, wherein said releasable attachment means comprises:

- a) the battery having a pair of grooves adapted to receive the flanges of the tracks,
and
- b) a slot for receiving the blocking member when the blocking member is in the latched position.

24. A rechargeable battery according to claim 23, wherein the slot is sized and shaped to engage the blocking member to lock the battery to the battery receiving portion when the blocking member is in the latched position.

25. A rechargeable battery according to claim 22, wherein the battery further includes means for automatically moving the blocking member from the latched toward the release position as the battery is mounted to the battery receiving portion.

26. A rechargeable battery according to claim 25, wherein the means for automatically moving the blocking member comprises a ramped surface on the top portion of the battery housing.

27. A rechargeable battery according to claim 21, wherein each of the battery terminals comprise a substantially flat plate member having opposite side surfaces, and each of said battery contacts comprise a pair of flexible, resilient arcuate members which are adapted to engage opposite side surfaces of a battery terminal.

28. A rechargeable battery according to claim 21, wherein said battery contacts each include a first end fixedly attached to said top portion of said battery housing and a second end adapted to abut a support shoulder of the top portion of the battery housing.

29. A rechargeable battery adapted to be repeatably and releaseably attached to an orthopedic drive assembly, the orthopedic drive assembly having elongate drive and handle portions, a battery receiving portion having a pair of tracks defining flanges, and battery terminals; said battery comprising:

a battery housing having top and bottom portions, at least one cell within the battery housing and battery contacts adjacent the top portion of the housing and situated to engage the battery terminals of the orthopedic drive assembly, and

releasable attachment means for releasably attaching the battery to the battery receiving portion in a direction other than the direction of elongation of the handle portion.

30. A rechargeable battery according to claim 29, wherein the drive assembly further includes a blocking member movable between a latched and release position.

31. A rechargeable battery according to claim 30, wherein said battery further comprises means for automatically moving the blocking member from the latched toward the release position as the battery is mounted to the battery receiving portion.

32. A rechargeable battery according to claim 33, wherein the means for automatically moving the blocking member comprises a ramped surface on the top portion of the battery housing.

33. A rechargeable battery according to claim 29, wherein each of the battery terminals comprise a substantially flat plate member having opposite side surfaces, and each of said battery contacts comprise a pair of flexible, resilient arcuate members which are adapted to engage opposite side surfaces of a battery terminal.

34. A rechargeable battery according to claim 29, wherein said battery contacts each include a first end fixedly attached to said top portion of said battery housing and a second end adapted to abut a support shoulder of the top portion of the battery housing.

35. A rechargeable battery according to claim 29, wherein said battery housing comprises opposite, substantially flat front and rear walls constructed from a material suitable for protecting the cell(s) during an autoclave procedure,

said battery comprises eight substantially cylindrical cells having longitudinal axes, said eight cylindrical cells being arranged in: